THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round." BOOK OF MORMON, 1 NEPHI 10: 19.

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NEVER DESPAIR*

ELDER REED SMOOT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

I COULD DO NO BETTER than repeat the words that have been spoken by President Grant. I had it in my heart to do so, and I want to say Amen to all that he has just said; also I want to express my appreciation for the privilege of attending this general conference. While we were singing the last song, "Praise to the Man who Communed with Jehovah", and the one before, I thought, if the author of these two songs were allowed to be present and hear the words sung by this wonderful and enthusiastic audience, such an audience as cannot be found in any other place on earth, his heart would be filled with joy and praise-giving. The fundamentals of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are found in the words of these two songs. Where else in all the world could you see an audience of ten thousand people every one of them capable of quoting every word of the song, and every soul interested in singing the praises to God as contained in these two songs?

BE FIRM

The other day a middle-aged man called to see me. It was about a question in which he was deeply interested, and after I advised him that his wishes, as far as any action on the part of our government was concerned, were useless, he began to talk to me about his life and what he had been called upon to sacrifice

*Address delivered at the second session of the Ninety-seventh Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 3, 1926.

for the Gospel's sake. He said that he became almost discouraged and was almost at the road of despair. I thought, my brethren and sisters, that that condition, if a man reached it, is a most dangerous one, and at that time if a word of encouragement or a helping hand could be extended, it might save him. I remembered when I was going to school as a young boy of being asked to learn and repeat an article found, I think, in the *National Fifth Reader*, entitled "Never Despair", and as I had it with me I read it to him. I think, my brethren and sisters, that perhaps it would be a proper thing to call it to your attention, and I shall do so, in part:

There is no trait of human character so potential for weal or woe as firmness. To the business man it is all-important. Before its irresistible energy the most formidable obstacles become as cobweb barriers in its path. Difficulties, the terror of which causes the pampered sons of luxury to shrink back with dismay, provoke from the man of lofty determination only a smile. The whole story of our race—all nature, indeed—teems with examples to show what wonders may be accomplished by resolute perseverance and patient toil.

It is related of Tamerlane, the celebrated warrior, the terror of whose arms spread through all the eastern nations, and whom victory attended at almost every step, that he once learned from an insect a lesson of perseverance, which had a striking effect upon his future character and success.

When closely pursued by his enemies—as a contemporary tells the anecdote—he took refuge in some old ruins, where, left to his solitary musings, he espied an ant tugging and striving to carry a single grain of corn. His unavailing efforts were repeated sixty-nine times, and at each several time so soon as he reached a certain point of projection, he fell back with his burden, unable to surmount it; but the seventieth time he bore away his spoil in triumph, and left the wondering hero reanimated and exulting in the hope of future victory.

How pregnant the lesson this incident conveys! How many thousand instances there are in which inglorious defeat ends the career of the timid and desponding, when the same tenacity of purpose would crown it with triumphant success! Resolution is almost omnipotent. Sheridan was at first timid and obliged to sit down in the midst of a speech. Convinced of, and mortified at, the cause of his failure, he said one day to a friend: "It is in me, and it shall come out."

From that moment he arose, and shone, and triumphed in a consummate eloquence. Here was true moral courage. And it was well observed by a heathen moralist, that it is not because things are difficult that we dare not undertake them.

Be, then, bold in spirit. Indulge no doubts—they are traitors. In the practical pursuit of our high aim, let us never lose sight of it in the slightest instance: for it is more by a disregard of small things, than by open and flagrant offenses, that men come short of excellence. There is always a right and a wrong; and if you ever doubt, be sure you take not the wrong. Observe this rule, and every experience will be to you a means of advancement.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL IN US MUST COME OUT

My brethren and sisters, it is in us, it must come out. We have the testimony in our souls that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of the living God, that God, through him, established this Church in this dispensation, nevermore to be thrown down or given to another people. As I looked at the faces of this vast audience of the Priesthood before me, I wondered if there is made that determined effort for success, that firmness maintained that is so essential to success in every vocation of life, and in their belief in any principle. If it were, what could not be accomplished? I am not afraid of the ultimate success of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. God is at the helm. I can see every year that passes by, that, step by step it is gaining its way and men are studying the results of it—men who hold mighty positions, men of affairs. While, of course, they have not the knowledge that it was from God, they can't but look at the results of it, and they can't but see there is something in the Gospel of Jesus Christ greater than mere numbers of souls. If we are faithful, if we are true to the covenants that we have made with God, if we have an eye single to His glory, if we think more of God's work and its success than of our own individual success, or our own individual positions in this world, I say to you now that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will grow just as fast as God wants it to grow, or knows that the people are ready for it to grow.

PREJUDICES NOT ALL ELIMINATED

The prejudices against our people that have been so bitter in the past are not all eliminated yet. Perhaps they never will be until final success comes; but I want to testify to you that this wall of prejudice is crumbling, it is being destroyed in the minds of the opposition when they see the results of "Mormonism" in the community in which "Mormons" live; and I haven't any doubt, my brethren and sisters, that the final triumph of the work of God will come in His own due time. I thank God for His Spirit made manifest to us this day. My heart gave echo to all that has been said, and I am, with my brethren, interested in the advancement of the Church that it may spread to all the four corners of the earth, that the testimony of the elders shall be heard in all lands.

A WEALTH OF SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH

I wondered when we were singing the last song if every person in the world could have heard it—and that time may come when they can do so, if they desire—what effect it would have had upon them. I know that no stranger, no man, could have been in this building to-day and heard the song that was sung and the power that was manifested by every one who took part in the singing

and not have been touched to the heart. He never could have said there is not faith among the people known as the "Mormons." He never could have claimed that there was not a wealth of spirituality and faith emanating from those who have taken part in the singing and speaking; both would have impressed him with the earnestness and with the truthfulness of the words that were sung and the testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as proclaimed.

GOD LIVES! THIS IS HIS CHURCH

My brethren and sisters, I want to leave with you to-day that testimony for which I prayed so long. My mother said if I would keep myself unspotted from the sins of the world it would come, and this is that testimony: that I know that God lives and this is His Church. I hope, as long as I have breath, that whatever is required of me as a servant of God I shall be perfectly willing to do, to make sacrifice of any name or nature, even unto life itself; and if a humble prayer, offered to my Heavenly Father morning and night, will keep me in that same frame of mind, I shall glorify His name and thank my Maker for that testimony.

May God's choicest blessings be with His people. May they increase in wisdom, and may their works be such that the world seeing them will concede that they are directed from other sources than man, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS*

ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

I VERY MUCH DESIRE that the few moments I occupy may be profitable to you, and to that end I ask an interest in your faith and prayers, that my mind may be touched by the power of the Lord to say those things that He would have you hear.

We have had much in the way of instruction. Many delightful discourses have been delivered here. We have been edified under the influence of the Spirit of the Lord. I feel grateful to be here. I rejoice with you that we are permitted to meet under such favourable conditions and to enjoy those things which our Heavenly Father would have us hear.

To-day throughout the world there are millions of our Father's children who would give all they possess if they could be present to hear the instructions that we have received here. There are

*Address delivered at the fourth session of the Ninety-seventh Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 4, 1926.

millions who have no conception of the purposes of our Heavenly Father in placing them here upon the earth; yet we have been so favoured that we not only have the instructions that were given to ancient Israel, but we have information that was given to us in this latter day in addition. There is no doubt in the mind of a Latter-day Saint who has received a testimony of the divinity of the mission of Christ our Lord. That is fundamental to us in building our hope for eternal life. We believe in God the Eternal Father and we believe that Jesus Christ was the manifestation of God in the flesh, His Only Begotten Son; and we believe in the Holy Ghost and the power that He manifests unto those who seek to do the will of our Father in heaven. This belief is fundamental with us, and it leaves us in the position of children of God. We are the children of our Heavenly Father. He is the Father of our spirits.

"OUR BIRTH IS BUT A SLEEP AND A FORGETTING"

We lived before we came here, and our birth into this world was the reward of having kept our first estate. When we were born we received a physical tabernacle without which we could not be exalted in the presence of our Heavenly Father. It was necessary for His Son Jesus Christ to be born into the world in order that He, too, might have a tabernacle like unto the one that His Father has. We dwell here upon this earth realizing that we are indeed the children of God, knowing that He prepared this earth particularly for those who dwell upon it, that He has placed upon it those things that are necessary to sustain life and make all men and women happy, as far as the creature comforts of life are concerned. We should take advantage of the opportunities He has given us so abundantly.

PURPOSE OF OUR EARTH LIFE

We are placed here and instruction has been given us. We are informed that we will not be held responsible for the sin of Adam, but that we will be held responsible for our own sins. The Atonement of Jesus Christ removed from us the responsibility of atoning for the sin of father Adam, and he has made it possible for us to live here upon the earth; and in due time, if we take advantage of our opportunities, we will be prepared to be resurrected from the dead, when that time shall come. There is no doubt in the mind of a Latter-day Saint as to the purpose of our earth life. We are here to prepare ourselves and develop ourselves and qualify ourselves to be worthy to dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father. We must learn to overcome our passions, our evil tendencies. We must learn to resist temptations. That is why we are here, and in order that we may more perfectly do that, the Gospel has been restored to the earth, and we have been made partakers of it, and we have the strength that comes to us

as a result of the power of the Holy Ghost. We not only have the resistance of an ordinary individual, with the limitations that such an individual has who has not a knowledge of the truth—we have equal resistance with him, and in addition the resistance which comes from knowing the truth and knowing the purpose of our being.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Now how important it is, with that understanding, that we should study the scriptures, that we should search the word of the Lord. The Saviour said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." With that understanding we are not left as the world, but we have been warned by the Redeemer of mankind and we have been told just what we must do. We must have faith in God, we must repent of our sins, because while we are in a sinful condition we are in no way prepared to enter into the celestial kingdom, and we are informed that if we cannot keep the celestial law we cannot abide celestial glory. The Gospel has been restored in these latter days to prepare men for the celestial kingdom. This Gospel has not been given to qualify men for any other kingdom, but has been given to us to prepare us that we may dwell upon this earth when it has been celestialized, when our Redeemer will dwell here and He will be our lawgiver and our king.

EXERCISE DAILY CARE OR FORFEIT BLESSING

Knowing these truths, how careful we as Latter-day Saints ought to be to live every day of our lives that we may be influenced by the power of the Lord, and that we may be able to turn aside from those things that have a tendency to break down our power to earn the celestial kingdom. The fact that we have been baptized into the Church is not sufficient. The fact that our names are on the Church records is not sufficient. The Redeemer Himself has said: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." That is well defined, therefore we cannot drink with the drunken, we cannot debauch our lives, we cannot be dishonourable in our dealings with our fellow men, and gain celestial glory. We must keep the commandments of our Heavenly Father. We are told in other scripture that those who do not keep the commandments of God will forfeit their right to the blessings of the celestial kingdom. If we had been left to speculate on these matters, if we had been left without suitable information to prepare us for this life and make preparations for the life to come, perhaps we might be indifferent and excuse ourselves as the world does; they do not understand. But for those who have been made partakers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these latter days there is no excuse if

we are not living a righteous life. We have been fully taught; we have observed the effects of righteousness upon the lives of others. We have had the assurance that by living the commandments of God happiness will be our portion here, and that this will be the foundation upon which we will build for eternal happiness.

DUTIES OF TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH

Throughout the stakes and wards of this great Church there are men whose duty it is to teach these principles. We send into the world missionaries by thousands to proclaim this Gospel. There is no charge made for this service, it is offered to the world, to the whole human family, without money and without price. It is so important that people shall understand this Gospel that our Heavenly Father sent His Only Begotten Son into the world to teach it, and He died that we might live, that we might be resurrected from the dead. And in order that there might be a well defined pathway to the celestial kingdom He organized His Church and set in it the officers that were necessary—apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc. These were the officers that were to be maintained in the Church. One of His disciples is recorded as having said that these are to remain in the Church until all shall come to a unity of the faith. Why is it necessary that we come to a unity of the faith? It is because there is only one true faith, there is only one true Gospel, and if we partake of some other gospel, if we devote our lives to work for some other god, then has the adversary taken advantage of his opportunities and destroyed for us the benefits that our Heavenly Father intended that we should have. So the Gospel was restored, and we are informed what we are required to do. Not only must we be identified with this Church by faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, but we must live every day of our lives in such a way that we will be earning the reward of celestial glory. The man who violates the Sabbath day loses the Spirit of the Lord and forfeits this companionship. The man who violates the rules and regulations that govern the Church forfeits that sweet influence that would lead him eventually into the presence of our Heavenly Father. Knowing that, how careful we ought to be to teach our boys and girls, and to teach our neighbours the things that God has intended that they should know; and not only teach by word of mouth, but exemplify our teachings in the lives that we lead.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

EACH OF US may accept or reject the message of eternal life, the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and by all reason and consistency each shall garner the fruitage of his choice.—J. E. T.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1927

EDITORIAL

"COME, LET US ANEW"

To All, a Happy and a Prosperous New Year!

The past twelve months cycle to many doubtless has brought experiences of trial and trouble, deprivation and loss, vicissitude and suffering.

> Life is full of stress and struggle,
> Full of contrasts, contradictions,
> Full of strife and strange mutations.

A Hebrew prophet who ministered on the Western Hemisphere nearly six centuries B. C. spoke saying: "Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. . . . Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself." Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 2: 16, 27.

Men, therefore, are agents unto themselves, and, in a broad sense may be the cause of many of the ills and "strange mutations" of mortality. In wisdom the Lord permits these things to exist, generally to the ultimate good of His children; for

> We rise by things that are 'neath our feet;
> By what we have mastered of good and gain;
> By the pride deposed and the passion slain,
> And the vanquished ills that we hourly meet.

"Men are that they might have joy" said the inspired oracle.

"But," queries the incredulous scoffer, "who can perceive even a semblance of 'joy' in the suffering and deprivation that many among men are called to endure?"

Joy is not always immediate, nor is blessing always directly apparent. Through transgression men forfeit God's bounties and reap retribution; and as with individuals, so with commonwealths and nations. In conflict and war innocent and neutral bystanders or countries often are compelled to experience in a measure small or large the distress of the active participants. So it is in life;

many are made to suffer, though they be not themselves culpable, for the wrongs and mistakes of others.

The trials of life, we may be assured, are fundamentally essential for the eventual and eternal, if not current, happiness of man. We appreciate prosperity more after having quaffed from adversity's goblet; we cherish to a greater degree the boon of physical well-being by experiencing afflictions of the body; the sunshine seems brighter after the storm; happiness is sweeter to those who have tasted the gall of misery; friendship and love may grow stronger when contrasted by estrangement for a season. Who would acclaim the courageous were they subjected to no fright? Who would give plaudits to the victor were there no vanquished? And who would have the joy of helping the vanquished rise again were it not that men are what they are? We learn the worth of wealth, both of spiritual and material things, by experiencing poverty. We know better the meaning of right, righteousness, and relative perfection, after our wrongs, sins, shortcomings and imperfections are revealed unto us. As the hand that wields the hammer renders itself callous so may the spirit of man through experience in mortality become more thoroughly prepared to withstand evil. Yes, "Sweet are the uses of adversity."

These constitute some of the joy that men "might have" in this estate. Who dares doubt but what "all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things", and that there is a great underlying purpose even in what seem to be vicissitudes of life?

Custom has established the dawn of the year as a time for you and me to make new resolutions, vows to self, to God, and to all the world, that we shall do better and be better in every righteous respect during the current year and those to come than we have done and have been in our past lives. We may have undergone discouraging trials and trying tests, our paths may have been rocky and our burdens as millstones, during the year so recently closed; but "Come, let us anew our journey pursue"; though our flesh be weak, our spirits are strong, if we master them.

Let us record this verse in our freshly started diaries and in our hearts, and sing it as we begin anew the march over the roads of time, with firm step, resolute purpose, and banners of righteousness unfurled:

Come, let us anew our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.
His adorable will let us gladly fulfil,
And our talents improve,
By the patience of hope and the labour of love.

JAMES K. KNUDSON

A LUMINARY

In the year 1840 a new star began to radiate in the sky of British journalism. This light, given the significant name *The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*, has been and is fixed and immovable, a luminary held in esteem for the living light of its rays, which during four score and six years have been piercing the darkness of spiritual unbelief, unrest and schism, penetrating the mists of adversity, shining into many hearts, and illuminating many homes.

The subscription list of the *Millennial Star* could and should be much larger. The fact has been definitely demonstrated in one district of the British Mission that the number of readers and subscribers can be substantially increased. Through earnest and unified effort on the part of missionaries and resident members, the number of copies taken in the Manchester Conference has increased fifty per cent., and is still going up, incidentally placing the district far to the front of any other conference as to *Star* subscriptions. This ambition of the Traveling Elders and local members to obtain new readers for their magazine is a commendable one, and worthy of emulation in all divisions of the Mission.

It is said that the *Star* is a good missionary. In the hands of the sincere inquirer it may have convincing and converting influence. All who now take the publication can render valuable service by lending their copies to others not of the Church.

This is Number 1, Volume 89; we earnestly hope that the volume will be among the best yet issued. Ere Number 52 appears may the light of the *Star* have shone on a larger group of appreciative readers. As the astronomer acquires increased knowledge by learning of the stars of heaven, so may all gain added intelligence and wisdom by reading this luminary of literature. The *Star* may be a friend and a companion on lonely nights.—James K. Knudson.

REPORTS FROM THE CONTINENT

As indicated through our last issue for 1926, a round of visits was made by the President of the European Missions through the Swiss-German, German-Austrian, and French territories, the journey occupying about six weeks. Detailed accounts have come to the *Star* from the several Missions visited; and while these reports are rich in valuable data relating to the meetings held, both general and special, to the conditions of the Missions as to membership thereof and activities therein, the limitations of space make it imperative that these interesting reports be greatly condensed. A scant summary of each is presented herewith.

FROM THE SWISS-GERMAN MISSION

The series of meetings held in this Mission had its beginning at Hanover, Germany, on November 13th; and the first assembly was one of officers, teachers, and the missionary elders of the district. Three largely attended gatherings were held on the 14th, the first of which was a Sunday School session, for which careful preparation had been made as shown in the presentation of a pageant entitled "A 'Mormon' Home." The evening meeting was more impressive, if possible, than either of the others. Fully four hundred people were in attendance, about half of whom were non-members of the Church, classed as investigators, friends and strangers. There were present at these assemblies President Fred Tadje, recently released from his labours as President of the German-Austrian Mission, President Hyrum W. Valentine, recently installed as the new President of that Mission, President Hugh J. Cannon, who has charge of the Swiss-German Mission and President James E. Talmage. Each of these brethren spoke at two or more of the meetings during the day, and all with excellent effect. Indeed, the interest manifested by the people was intense; and no one there present could doubt the sincerity and earnestness of missionaries and resident members alike. On November 15th the missionary elders met with the visiting officials; and in the course of the day thirty-one Traveling Elders and presiding officers made reports and bore individual testimonies concerning the cause to which they are devoting themselves soul and body, night and day.

The journey then was continued into the German-Austrian Mission, and later into Switzerland where on December 3rd meetings in the Swiss-German Mission were resumed at a great gathering at Zurich, at which Presidents Hugh J. Cannon and James E. Talmage were the speakers. Within this Mission later assemblies were addressed by the Mission Presidents, Conference Presidents and others at Basel, Lorrach and Berne. Lorrach, a German city just across the international line from Basel, is a new field in which missionary work has been started but recently; and it is interesting to note that the newspapers of the city gave a rather lengthy and favourable report of the proceedings. The last meeting held in Berne was a fitting climax in the deep and solemn interest manifested by all who heard the message as there presented.

FROM THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN MISSION

Wednesday, November 17th, 1926, is a day long to be remembered in this Mission. In the evening of that day four Mission Presidents and seventy-seven Traveling Elders assembled in Dresden, forming part of a congregation of 700, who witnessed the rendition of a splendid program prepared specifically in

honour of President Fred Tadje, Sister Tadje and family, who were then preparing to leave in accordance with their honourable release from further service, and also as a welcome to President Hyrum W. Valentine, Sister Valentine and their family. The four Mission Presidents made short addresses. President Tadje and family departed from Dresden on the first stage of their homeward journey on the following Saturday morning, November 20th, carrying with them the love and esteem of missionaries and resident members of the Mission over which President Tadje has so ably presided for more than three and a half years. A meeting of all the missionaries present was held on November 18th, an impressive feature of which was the question and answer period. Although this date was one week ahead of the American Thanksgiving Day the presence of so many missionaries there at the time led to the observance of the earlier date as that of the Thanksgiving dinner. The Traveling Elders, the visiting officials, and a few invited guests assembled at the Bahnhof Restaurant, at which the dinner, including the time-honoured turkey and the indispensable cranberry, together with sundry other American viands appropriate to the day, was served to the accompaniment of an excellent program of music, readings and brief addresses. The guests of honour at the Thanksgiving banquet included Honourable George Waller, who is the United States Consul at Dresden, his mother Mrs. Waller; Mr. Grinstead, American vice-consul; Mr. Rawson, also vice-consul, and his wife, Mrs. Rawson. Consul Waller's address was one of high commendation of the marvelous work accomplished by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as evinced by our very successful missionary system and by the educational achievements of the people.

November 19th was devoted to the exercises incident to the unveiling and dedication of the Karl G. Maeser Memorial Tablet in Meissen, to the record of which event the *Star* of December 9th was almost entirely devoted.

On Sunday, November 21st, President and Sister Valentine together with the President of the European Missions attended a branch conference at Zwickau. The visitors and some of the missionaries of the district spoke at each of the public meetings held, between which a Priesthood meeting was conducted simultaneously with the gathering of the Relief Society. The burden of the instruction given to the brethren was to the effect that the Priesthood had been in reality restored to earth, and that it was conferred upon men that they may better serve their fellows. Resident members holding the Priesthood were admonished to be active in carrying on the work of the branches, thus liberating the traveling missionaries from local service and enabling them to reach out after others who had not yet heard or become ready to receive the Gospel. Following the afternoon

meeting in Zwickau the visitors took train for Chemnitz, where they addressed a congregation of over four hundred people.

Wednesday evening, November 24th, another meeting was held in Dresden, under Mutual Improvement Association auspices. The large Dresden Branch of the Church manifests a degree of activity in all phases of Church work incident to the Mission, and cannot fail to be an inspiration to other and less populous branches. On November 25th Presidents Talmage and Valentine and Sister Valentine proceeded from Dresden to Prague, capital of the republic of Czechoslovakia. In that city there is but one family belonging to the Church—Sister Franziska Brodil and her two grown daughters. Although thus isolated this family has been true to the faith through long years, and each of them voiced an earnest assurance of her testimony regarding this latter-day work. Next day the two presidents called on the United States Consul, Honourable Charles S. Winans, and later had an interview with Doctor Ferdinand Spisek of the Department of Public Instruction and Religion of Czechoslovakia. It is confidently expected that missionary work will be made possible in this young republic at no far distant date.

On November 26th the party reached Vienna, Austria, in which city meetings of our people were held on the two succeeding days. A memorable conference was held there on Sunday, November 28th, comprising forenoon, afternoon and evening sessions. Other meetings in Austria were held in Linz on December 1st and in Salzburg on the following day, and at each of these towns the services were very impressive and will doubtless prove effective in the spreading of the Gospel in that land.

FROM THE FRENCH MISSION

In mid-December the President of the European Missions, accompanied by Mission President Ernest C. Rossiter and Sister Rossiter, attended a series of especially arranged conferences, embracing the three main districts of the French Mission—Swiss, French, and Belgian. Professor James L. Barker of the University of Utah, now established in Paris while doing research work in the field of languages, gave a masterly translation of such addresses as were delivered in English, and was himself one of the principal speakers. The meetings began on December 9th with an evening assembly at Geneva. At this meeting Professor Barker gave an interesting account of a recent visit made to Utah by Benjamin Valloton, a highly esteemed French writer. Monsieur Valloton's articles have been given prominent place in leading journals, and the writer extolls the sturdiness and righteousness of the "Mormon" people, who formed the subject of his study.

Neuchâtel was visited by the party on December 11th; and a very enlightening service was held on the evening of that day.

President Talmage emphasized the significant difference between positive and negative evidence and made application to the message and mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was held that religious questions deserve the same fair and logical treatment accorded legal and other considerations. Joseph Smith emphatically declared that he had received heavenly visitations, one result of which was the delivery to him of certain ancient records, the modern translation of which now appears as the Book of Mormon. The answer of the world to this claim is but a blank denial.

On December 12th the visitors arrived at Lyon, France, where the missionaries of the Marseilles, Lyon and Geneva districts had assembled, with many members and investigators. The visiting presidents, Sister Rossiter, and Professor Barker were the speakers. On the following day, December 13th, beginning early in the morning and lasting until night, a Priesthood meeting was held for the 35 missionaries labouring in the French and Swiss districts.

On December 18th the visiting party reached Liége, Belgium, where during the afternoon and evening an important Priesthood meeting was held in which nineteen traveling missionaries made their reports.

On Sunday, December 19th, a conference of the missionaries and resident members in the Liége district was conducted with great success, and a farewell meeting of the visitors and missionaries took place on the following day.

It is pleasing to note the evidences of a living, abiding and sustaining faith in the teachings of the restored Gospel, and the benefits of living in accordance therewith, as manifested by the peoples in the several countries visited. Their religion is no matter of mere ritual or formalism, but one that demands and receives the best efforts of its adherents.

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH*

His Coming Predicted

Very early in the New Testament account of Jesus of Nazareth we find Him designated by the combined name and title *Jesus Christ.* See Matt. 1: 1, 18; Mark 1: 1.

His earthly advent was proclaimed through the prophets of the Old Testament, but in none of their utterances as the record has come down to us is either the name *Jesus* or the title *Christ* to be

*This article is for use in the course of study of the Relief Societies on the second meeting night in January, 1927.

found. In other scriptures, however, such as the Book of Mormon and the Book of Moses, both are used, as they were given by revelation. See Pearl of Great Price, Moses 6: 52; Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25: 19; Mosiah 3: 8.

We learn that after our first parents, Adam and Eve, had left the Garden of Eden, because of the Fall, they heard the voice of the Lord giving them certain commandments, among which was one requiring them to offer sacrifices; and an angel of the Lord explained unto Adam that these sacrifices were in representation or similitude of a great sacrifice then future, that of the "Only Begotten of the Father." See Pearl of Great Price, Book of Moses 5: 5-9. Later the principles of repentance and baptism were explained to Adam, and it was made plain that baptism was to be administered in the name of the Only Begotten Son "which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men." (Moses 6: 52). Thus we see that unto Adam, the first of the race, the coming of Jesus was made known, and the sacred name-title *Jesus Christ* was revealed.

One of the predictions concerning the coming of Christ, of the Messiah, to which the Jewish people attached great importance, is that recorded in Deuteronomy 18: 18, wherein the Lord speaking through Moses said to ancient Israel: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Read Acts 3: 22; 7: 37; Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 20: 23.

Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and many other prophets whose words are recorded in the Old Testament, likewise predicted in terms plain and simple the coming of the Lord to dwell among men. See Job 19: 25-27; Isa. 7: 14; 9: 6, 7; 53; Jer. 23: 5, 6; Ezek. 34: 23; 37: 24, 25. Thus from Adam to John the Baptist the promised advent of the Christ was declared by the Lord through the mouths of holy prophets.

Unto that division of the house of Israel that had been led by the word of God from Palestine and directed across the great waters to the American Continent, whose history is recorded in the Book of Mormon, the birth, life, and sacrificial death of Jesus was made known in plainness, and to them the name *Jesus Christ* was revealed. Lehi prophesied that at the end of six hundred years from the time he had left Jerusalem "a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews—even a Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior of the world." (1 Nephi 10: 4). Nephi, son of Lehi, cites the earlier prophets to the effect that the Messiah would come at the time stated, and further that "his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (2 Nephi 25: 19).

To the Nephites, who were freed to a great extent from the false traditions that became current among the Jews, the Lord

revealed in greater detail the facts concerning the appointed advent of the Christ, who was to become mortal and live as a man among men.

The Book of Mormon is not only a history of Lehi and his descendants in America, but is primarily a volume of sacred scripture, having for its principal theme the certainty and purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ throughout the record for the first six hundred years, and the abundant testimony that He had come following the account of His personal visitation to the Nephites after His death and resurrection.

The birth and life work of no other being who has lived upon the earth have ever been so abundantly foretold. Righteous people among the Jews and among the Nephites who were living at or near the appointed time were in a state of expectancy, for the coming of the Messiah had been proclaimed throughout the ages. He was to be no ordinary man, but the actual Son of God, who would have power over the elements of nature, the diseases and afflictions of mankind, and over life and death. As we shall see in our next lesson, He came as had been predicted.

With these facts so abundantly proved, who can rationally question His divinity?

SUMMARY

1. Jesus is mentioned in scripture by various names and titles. Give some of them with their significations.
2. That He would come to earth was made known to early prophets. Give instances from Bible, Pearl of Great Price, and Book of Mormon.
3. His then future coming was revealed in greater plainness to Nephite than to Hebrew prophets. Why?
4. Lehi and his son Nephi both proclaimed the Lord's birth and specified the time with exactness. Cite the principal passages.
5. Jesus of Nazareth manifested powers beyond those of humankind. Name some of these.
6. Prophecies relating to His earthly life and the fulfilment of those predictions demonstrate His divine nature. Can any of you otherwise explain these things?

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